



Wetland Reserve Easements



What are the Wetland Reserve Easements

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) are a voluntary option for landowners to restore, protect and enhance wetlands on private property. It is an opportunity to secure an easement and to receive financial assistance to restore wetlands that have been drained for agriculture production or have been altered by multiple flood events.

Options

The program offers landowners these options:

- Permanent Easement
- 30-year Easement
- 30-year Contract (Tribal land only)

How WRE Works

Landowners who choose to participate in WRE may sell a conservation easement to USDA to restore and protect wetlands. The landowner voluntarily limits future use of the land, yet retains private ownership. The landowner and NRCS develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the wetland.

Landowner Eligibility

- Ownership of the land for the last two years
- Must be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions



WRE Financial Assistance

Permanent Easement: A conservation easement in perpetuity that pays up to 100 percent of the easement value and 75 to 100 percent of restoration costs.

30-year Easement: Easement expires after 30 years that pays 50 to 75 percent of the easement value and 50 to 75 percent of restoration costs.

30-year contract: Are only available to enroll acreage owned by Indian Tribes. Payment rates are commensurate with 30-year easements.

What's Eligible?

Land must be restorable and suitable for wetland and wildlife benefits

- Farmed or converted wetlands
- Adjacent lands that contribute to wetland functions and value
- Upland buffer areas for ecological benefits
- Riparian areas that link wetland areas
- Lands significantly altered by flooding

*For more information, visit
www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs*

What Land is Not Eligible?

- Wetlands converted after 1985
- Wetlands that are not degraded and functioning properly
- Land that is in public ownership

Some of the Benefits:

- Restore, protect and enhance wetland ecosystems
- Protect the land from soil erosion
- Reduce flooding
- Opportunity to develop wildlife habitat including threatened and endangered species habitat
- Improve water quality and recharge groundwater
- Protect biological diversity

How to Apply

Landowners may apply by contacting the NRCS office in the county in which the land is located.



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.